

To: All Practices in Surrey and Sussex LMCs

25 January 2019

Dear Colleagues

### Update: 2019/20 Seasonal Influenza Programme

All practices should now have received an updated letter from Public Health England in relation to the 2019/20 influenza programme, enclosed with this letter.

As colleagues will recall, prior to Christmas, NHS England confirmed that the vaccines used in the 2018/19 programme, i.e. standard egg cultured quadrivalent inactivated vaccine [now called QIVe], and the adjuvanted trivalent inactivated vaccine [aTIV], for patients between 18-64 years old and aged 65 years and over respectively, were available to order and were recommended for the 2019/20 programme.

UK marketing authorisation has finally been confirmed for two further products:

- Cell grown quadrivalent vaccine [QIVc]
- High dose trivalent vaccine (TIV-HD)

NHS England has confirmed that QIVc is suitable for all patients aged 9 and older [that is, for both age cohorts covered by QIVe and aTIV]. NHS England will continue to procure and supply flu vaccines for those aged under 18.

NHS England is **NOT** commissioning the use of TIV-HD, this will **NOT** be reimbursed during the 2019/20 influenza programme.

Practices should therefore order either/or, or a combination of QIVe, QIVc, and aTIV.

Colleagues should anticipate the Community Pharmacy Influenza schemes commissioned by NHS England in 2018/19 will once again be commissioned in 2019/20; the LMC will co-ordinate advice to both contractor groups with the LPC prior to the commencement of the next season.

Current immunisation rates for week 3 2019 are:

- 70.8 in patients aged 65 and over
- 46.2% in patients under 65 in clinical risk groups
- 42.7% in 2 year olds
- 44.6% in 3 year olds

Final uptake figures 1.9.17 to 31.1.18 in equivalent groups was:

Local Medical Committees for  
Croydon, Kingston & Richmond, Surrey,  
East Sussex and West Sussex

The White House    **T:** 01372 389270  
18 Church Road    **F:** 01372 389271  
Leatherhead  
Surrey KT22 8BB    [www.sslmcs.co.uk](http://www.sslmcs.co.uk)

- 72.6% for patients aged 65 and over
- 48.9% in patients under 65 in a clinical risk group
- 42.8% in 2 year olds
- 44.2% in 3 year olds

This indicates the continuing resilience and capability of General Practice, even given the supply issue debacle of which all colleagues are aware.

In what I believe will not be a non-sequitur I hope all General Practice colleagues remain able to recognise good news when they hear it and this year the LMC will be running LMC Contract Road Shows; I will shortly send out dates for these.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julius', written in a cursive style.

Dr Julius Parker  
Chief Executive